uncompromising law, has always been felt to be a very uncomfortable one. Truly, it is little consolation to the man disabled for life by an accident which he could neither have anticipated nor prevented, to tell him, in answer to the groans which his pain Is wringing from him, that his calamity occurred through a very beautiful law,—that it is a good thing that stones fall, and that fire burns, and thus brought down that building in the ruins of which he was found. The widow's tears, which flow as she weeps over a husband whose ship has perished in the waters, will not be dried up by the mere observer of mechanical laws coming to her and explaining that winds blow, and waves rage, and that it is for the advantage of mankind that they should. To those who could bring no other consolation, the heart would respond, " Miserable comforters are ye all; ye are physicians of no value."

The mind of man has always instinctively recoiled from the attempts made to persuade it that there is nothing in the world but all-sweeping and unbending general law ; arid truly, in such matters the hearts of our peasantry have been wiser than the heads of our philosophers. Is there no way by which all the advantages arising from the fixed sequences, and the regular courses of nature, may be secured, without our being obliged to submit to the disadvantages which arc supposed to be inherent in the system ? There is such a method, we are convinced, devised by the wisdom of God, and displayed in actual operation in his Providence.

It is conceivable that God might have so constituted this world that there should have been nothing but general laws, few in number, and free from all complexity. For example, there might only have been a few such laws as those of universal gravitation, the results of which could have been calculated with ease and certainty. All coming events, in such a

system, could have been counted on as confidently as the position of the planets, as the periodical return of the tides, as the eclipses of the sun arid moon. But it is evident, at the first glance, that man is not placed in such a state of things. Again, it is conceivable that the laws of nature might have been as numerous as they are, but arranged so simply as to combine in the most perspicuous and ineomplex results. It is after this manner, so far as we can discover, that the laws of nature operate in the